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Listing Of The Claims

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method of selecting contact information, comprising:

analyzing an electronic source document available on a network of computers to determine a referenced entity identified in the source document;

providing a data base of contact entities, the data base having contact information corresponding to a plurality of contact entities;

determining whether the referenced entity is among the contact entities; and

if the referenced entity is among the contact entities, then selecting the contact information corresponding to the referenced entity; and

providing criteria that a message must satisfy in order to be acceptable to the referenced entity; and

prompting a sender to provide a message to the referenced entity.

2. (Canceled)

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3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 1, further comprising receiving the message from the sender.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising analyzing the message to determine whether the message satisfies the criteria.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein analyzing the message to determine whether the message satisfies criteria specified by the referenced entity includes determining whether the message has obscenities therein.
6. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising providing the message to the referenced entity.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 1, prompting the sender to provide a preferred method of delivering the message.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the preferred method may be provided by selecting from a group consisting of e-mail and postal address.

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9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 1, further comprising prompting the sender to provide information required by the referenced entity.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 1, further comprising providing to the sender conditions that the sender must satisfy prior to sending the message.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 1, further comprising:

prompting the sender to provide information; and
using the information provided by the sender to categorize the message.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the contact information includes a postal address.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the contact information includes an Internet address.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the contact information includes a phone number.

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15. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining a key word in the source document that is
associated with the referenced entity; and
prioritizing selected contact information corresponding to
the referenced entity by giving a high priority to contact
information associated with the key word.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method of
selecting contact information, comprising:
receiving an identifier corresponding to a source document
available on a network of computers;
providing a data base having a plurality of identifiers,
each of the plurality of identifiers having associated therewith
contact information corresponding to entities referenced in the
source document;
determining whether the identifier corresponding to the
source document is among the plurality of identifiers in the data
base; and
if the identifier is among the plurality of identifiers in
the data base, then selecting the contact information
corresponding to the entities; and
providing criteria that a message must satisfy in order to
be acceptable to the entities; and

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prompting the sender to provide a message to one of the entities identified in the source document.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 16, further comprising receiving the message from the sender.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising analyzing the message to determine whether the message satisfies the criteria.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein analyzing the message to determine whether the message satisfies criteria specified by the referenced entity includes determining whether the message has obscenities therein.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising providing the message to the referenced entity.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 16, prompting the sender to provide a preferred method of delivering the message.

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23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the preferred method may be provided by selecting from a group consisting of e-mail and postal address.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~17~~ 16, further comprising prompting the sender to provide information required by the referenced entity.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~17~~ 16, further comprising providing to the sender conditions that the sender must satisfy prior to sending the message.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~17~~ 16, further comprising:

prompting the sender to provide information; and
using the information provided by the sender to categorize the message.

27. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the contact information includes a postal address.

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28. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the contact information includes an Internet address.

29. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the contact information includes a phone number.

30. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising, a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing a computer to select contact information, the computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture comprising:

computer readable program code means for instructing the computer to analyze an electronic source document available on a network of computers to determine a referenced entity identified in the source document;

computer readable program code means for instructing the computer to provide a data base of contact entities, the data base having contact information corresponding to a plurality of contact entities;

computer readable program code means for instructing the computer to determine whether the referenced entity is among the contact entities; and

computer readable program code means for instructing the

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computer to select the contact information corresponding to the referenced entity if the referenced entity is among the contact entities; and

computer readable program code means for instructing the computer to provide criteria that a message must satisfy in order to be acceptable to the contact entities; and

computer readable program code means for prompting the sender to provide a message to the referenced entity.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 31 30, further comprising computer readable program code means for receiving the message from the sender.

33. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 32, further comprising computer readable program code means for analyzing the message to determine whether the message satisfies the criteria.

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34. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 32, further comprising computer readable program code means for providing the message to the referenced entity.

35. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 31 30, computer readable program code means for prompting the sender to provide a preferred method of delivering the message.

36. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 35, further comprising computer readable program code means for allowing the sender to select from a group of preferred methods of delivering the message, consisting of e-mail and postal address.

37. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 31 30, further comprising computer readable program code means for prompting the sender to provide information required by the referenced entity.

38. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 31 30, further comprising computer readable program code means for providing to the sender conditions that the sender must satisfy prior to sending the message.

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39. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 31
30, further comprising:

computer readable program code means for prompting the
sender to provide information; and

computer readable program code means for using the
information provided by the sender to categorize the message.

40. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 31
30, further comprising:

computer readable program code means for determining a key
word in the source document that is associated with the
referenced entity; and

computer readable program code means for prioritizing
selected contact information corresponding to the referenced
entity by giving a high priority to contact information
associated with the key word.

41. (Currently Amended) A contact information system,
comprising:

a signal processor capable of analyzing an electronic
source document available on a network of computers to determine
a referenced entity identified in the source document;

a data base of contact entities, the data base having

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contact information corresponding to a plurality of contact entities;

a comparator in communication with the signal processor and the data base, the comparator being capable of receiving from the signal processor information about the referenced entity identified in the source document, and being capable of determining whether the referenced entity is among the plurality of contact entities; and

a signal provider in communication with the comparator and the data base, the signal provider being capable of providing contact information from the data base if the referenced entity is among the plurality of contact entities, and being able to provide criteria that a message must satisfy in order to be acceptable to the referenced entity; and

a message provider in communication with the signal provider, the message provider being capable of prompting the sender to provide a message to the referenced entity.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 42 41, further comprising a message analyzer in communication with the message provider, the message analyzer being capable of analyzing the

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message to determine whether the message satisfies criteria specified by the referenced entity.

44. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method of providing a sender with contact information, comprising:

analyzing an electronic source document available on a network of computers to determine a plurality of referenced entities identified in the source document;

providing a data base of contact entities, the data base having contact information corresponding to a plurality of contact entities;

determining whether the referenced entities are among the contact entities;

providing a list of referenced entities that are among the contact entities;

selecting from the list of referenced entities one of the referenced entities;

selecting the contact information corresponding to the selected referenced entity; and

providing to the sender the selected contact information; and

providing criteria that a message must satisfy in order to be acceptable to the referenced entity; and

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providing a list of contact information items corresponding to the selected referenced entity;

selecting from the list of contact information items one of the contact information items; and
providing the selected contact information item to the sender.

45. (Original) A method of claim 44, further comprising:
providing counters, each counter being capable of providing a cumulative total, and each counter being associated with one of the referenced entities;
incrementing one of the counters when the associated referenced entity is selected;
prioritizing the list of referenced entities by the cumulative totals provided by the counters.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 46 45, further comprising:
providing counters, each counter being capable of providing a cumulative total, and each counter being associated with one of the selected contact information items;
incrementing one of the counters when the associated

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contact information item is selected;

prioritizing the list of contact information items by the
cumulative totals provided by the counters.